

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-11 are pending in this application. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3-5, 9 and 11 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicant regards as his invention.

The amendments are supported in the specification as follows: Claim 1 (canceled claim 2 and formal amendments); Claims 3-5 (p.6, lines 1-9 and formal amendments); Claim 9 (formal amendments); and Claim 11 (p.6, lines 1-9 and formal amendments). The applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

Claims 4 and 11 are objected to because of informalities. (Office action paragraph no. 1) Claim 4 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions and claim 11 has been further amended for clarity.

Claim 2 was indicated as being allowable by the Examiner on p.6 of the Office Action dated October 3, 2003 if rewritten in independent form. Independent claim 1 was amended to incorporate all the subject matter of claim 2 thereby making claim 1 and all claims 3-11, dependant therefrom, allowable.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Jackson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,974,556) (Office action paragraph no. 4). Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Moore et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,084,769) (Office action paragraph no. 5). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

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over Jackson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,974,556) in view of Akira et al. (JP 10-116133) (Office action paragraph no. 7).

These above rejections are now moot in light of the amendment of claim 1 incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 2.

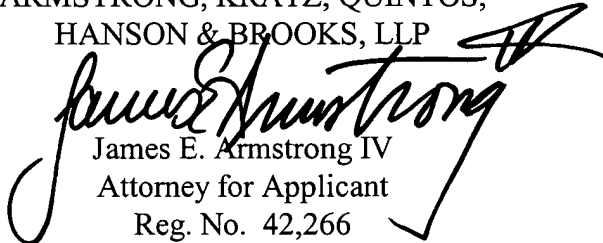
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1 and 3-11, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,
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